

# Linwood Koger dies; lawyer, NAACP chief

Funeral services for Linwood G. Koger, Sr., a lawyer, former magistrate and former head of the Baltimore Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, will be held at noon Tuesday at the Union Baptist Church, 1219 Druid Hill avenue.

Mr. Koger, who was 84 and lived at 2106 Bryant avenue, died Friday at a nursing home after a long illness.

The son of a freed slave, Mr. Koger was one of the first two members of his race to be admitted to the Maryland State Bar Association.

He served as a police magistrate in the old Northwestern district, at Pennsylvania avenue and Dolphin street, from 1955 to 1959. From 1944 until 1948, he served as assistant city solicitor, the second Negro to hold the post.

A Republican, Mr. Koger was a veteran of several unsuccessful campaigns for public office—for the House of Delegates in 1930, the City Council in 1939, the state Senate in 1942 and 1946, and for Congress in 1954.

In 1941, he was appointed to the Governor's Commission Studying Problems Affecting Colored People, from which he resigned in 1944, recommending improvements in the commission.

Mr. Koger was born in Reidsville, N.C., in 1889, but moved to Washington at the age of 15, living with the family of a sister while he spent 13 years studying at Howard University. He attended its preparatory school, undergraduate school and law school.

In the early 1930's, he served as the university's alumni secretary, and he was a former president of the Maryland Branch of its Alumni Association.

In 1917, he married the former Ruth E. Wilson. Mr. Koger was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 1923 and practiced law for 40 years.

During World War I he served in the Army, reaching the rank of first lieutenant and being wounded during fighting in the Meuse-Argonne campaign.

Later, he served as departmental vice commander of the American Legion in Maryland and as commander of the Walter Green Post.

From 1927 until 1930, he was president of the Baltimore Branch of the NAACP.

In 1923, he was one of the founders of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity chapter at Morgan College.

Mr. Koger served five terms as president of the Monumental City Bar Association. He was a trustee of the Union

Baptist Church from 1930 to 1941 and for 10 years taught the men's Bible class there.

For 14 years, he was a vice president of the Citizens Planning and Housing Association.

In addition to Mrs. Koger, survivors include two sons, Linwood G. Koger, Jr., and O'Neal W. Koger, Sr.; a daughter, Ruth K. Blacke; two brothers, A. Briscoe Koger and Earl K. Koger, Sr.; three sisters, Wynona K. Collins, Katherine K. Jackson, and Aillen K. Lang; seven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. All are of Baltimore.